

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0246_11

Senator Abetz asked on 1/06/2010, Hansard page 34.

Question

INNOVATIVE FLEXIBLE MODELS

Senator ABETZ—But they are now going to be wiped out of the market because it does not conform to this nearly manic approach of one size having to fit all, and you cannot have anything other than straight out classroom learning. What research and what intellectual grunt went into the determination that it can only be delivered through the classroom? Mr O'Connor—I will take that on notice.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response.

The Guidelines – Health and Safety Representatives training in the Commonwealth jurisdiction (the 2010 Guidelines) incorporate the consultations and feedback from all training providers, health safety representatives, employers, self-insurers, unions, Comcare investigators, Occupational Health and Safety Training Panel members and Comcare staff. The 2010 Guidelines were then considered and endorsed by the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission.

In revising the Guidelines consideration was given to striking an appropriate balance between theory and practice that would provide each health and safety representative with the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills and experience to exercise their powers effectively and responsibly. For these reasons the current Guidelines contain a number of practical skills development activities that take place in either the class room environment, or the workplace environment, under the direct supervision of the trainer.